

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF:S:FGWISNER:ML

APPROVED BY AF - MR. SCHAUFLELE

S - MR. EAGLEBURGER

S/S - PSHANKLE

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TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 217163

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SCHAUFLELE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA

1. WE HAVE NOTED THAT SOME IN AFRICAN CIRCLES APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT OUR PRESENT DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE STEMS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE TO SCORE ELECTION POINTS. WE WANT TO DISPEL THIS CONCERN. THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SEE PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND MAKE THE POINTS OUTLINED BELOW (IT WOULD BE BEST TO DO THIS IN CONJUNCTION WITH A MEETING ON SOME OTHER SUBJECT BUT WE VERY MUCH WANT THIS MESSAGE DELIVERED BY BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK, SO IF NECESSARY YOU SHOULD REQUEST APPOINTMENT FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF MAKING THESE POINTS). YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT YOU ARE NOT SPEAKING FROM INSTRUCTIONS; THESE ARE YOUR OWN THOUGHTS.

2. THE POINTS YOU ARE TO MAKE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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(A) THE UNITED STATES HAS EMBARKED ON ITS CURRENT UNDER-

TAKING IN AFRICA OUT OF ITS CONCERN FOR OUR IMPORTANT INTERESTS IN AFRICA WHICH WE ARE DETERMINED TO DEFEND. THESE INTERESTS REMAIN CONSTANT, WHICHEVER THE ADMINISTRATION.

(B) IN EVERY ELECTION SINCE FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, BLACKS HAVE VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY FOR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT. PRESENT POLLS INDICATE THAT THE SAME TREND WILL CERTAINLY PREVAIL IN THE 1976 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

(C) AT THE SAME TIME THAT PROGRESS ON NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA WILL EARN A REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION LITTLE CREDIT WITH THE BLACK VOTERS, THERE IS ALSO SOME EVIDENCE THAT THIS ISSUE COULD HURT PRESIDENT FORD WITH THE MORE CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS WHO NORMALLY VOTE FOR A REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE.

(D) SPEAKING GENERALLY, THE PUBLIC AT LARGE HAS LITTLE UNDERSTANDING FOR THE PROBLEMS OF RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA AND WILL NOT BE SWAYED IN TERMS OF THE ELECTION BY A SETTLEMENT OF THESE QUESTIONS -- OR, INDEED, BY A FAILURE TO SETTLE THESE QUESTIONS. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THERE IS NO PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE PRESENT AMERICAN INITIATIVE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. RECENT POLLS SHOW BROAD PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR OUR POLICY.

3. THE FOREGOING POINTS SHOULD BE CLEAR TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA, WHO HAS A LONG PERSONAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES AND IS ACQUAINTED WITH THE AMERICAN DOMESTIC SCENE. WE WANT HIM TO UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT OUR CURRENT POLICY IS FIRMLY BASED ON OUR COMMITMENT TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND THE NATIONS OF AFRICA. FOR THESE REASONS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE COURSE WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN AND WILL WORK VIGOROUSLY TOWARDS A NEGOTIATED AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN CRISES WHICH PROTECTS THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF ALL INVOLVED.

4. PLEASE REPORT REACTION SOONEST. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CAT-C, NO HARD COPY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE217163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S:FGWISNER:ML
Enclosure: FOR EAGLEBURGER ONLY
Executive Order: GS
Errors: I
Film Number: N760006-0591
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197609100/aaaadhvz.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA
TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, ZA
To: LUSAKA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006